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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

DOJ's "NEVERMIND" WAFFLE

The proposed settlement with Microsoft is completely unconscionable. After having won the case on nearly all accounts, the DoJ has handed out a resounding "nevermind". What a complete waste of public funds. Highly suspicious, as well, considering the amount of influence big business in general has had over the past few elections. Something here just doesn't add up.

MICROSOFT FRAGMENTS AND DERAILS THE WEB

As a freelance Web site designer I suffer daily from the lack of choice in operating systems and Web browsers available today. Microsoft continues to short-circuit and preempt efforts by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to standardize Web technologies that would make interoperability between different operating systems and Web browsers very simple. Instead, I need to code my pages (scripting and Document Object Model, specifically) at least three redundant ways so they work in MSIE and Netscape 4, as well as the new standards-compliant browsers such as Netscape 6 and Opera. Netscape has done the right thing; Microsoft needs to be forced to adhere to Web standards, rather than continue to slyly compel Web designers to continuing to use proprietary coding which only serves to maintain Microsoft's monopoly.

OPERATING SYSTEM CHOICE

The settlement does nothing to protect other operating systems which might compete with Microsoft, specifically Open Source OSes like Linux.

SECURITY

The continued lack of security in Microsoft products creates horrendous situations regarding national security, business security and personal data security. If there were diverse OSes and Web browsers, virii could not take out such large portions of the world's tech infrastructure in one fell swoop.

I hope the DoJ will reconsider this joke of a settlement and rein in Microsoft. Reneging on the judgment sends an unsavory message to other tech businesses--that it's okay to misbehave, the DoJ doesn't care.

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